

In the Claims

For the convenience of the Examiner, all claims have been presented whether or not an amendment has been made.

1. (Currently Amended) A bolt protection apparatus for use with a bolt inserted into an opening in a piece of lumber, the bolt protector comprising:

a first means for surrounding and preventing at least one portion of the bolt from contacting the sidewall of the opening, the piece of lumber attached to a building foundation and treated with one or more chemicals, wherein the first means retards corrosion of the bolt by the one or more chemicals; and

a second means for assisting in fixing the position of at least a portion of the first means in the opening when the first means surrounds the at least one portion of the bolt and is inserted in the opening, wherein the first means and second means are constructed from a non-metal material.

2. (Withdrawn) The bolt protection apparatus of Claim 1,
wherein the second means is a separate piece from the first means and is in contact with the first means.

3. (Original) The bolt protection apparatus of Claim 1,
wherein the second means is integrally formed with the first means.

4. (Currently Amended) The bolt protection apparatus of Claim 3,
wherein the first means comprises a tubular structure; and
wherein the second means comprises a washer ~~washer-like structure~~ substantially perpendicular to the tubular structure and integrally formed therewith.

5. (Withdrawn) The bolt protection apparatus of Claim 3,
wherein the first means comprises a tubular structure; and
wherein the second means comprises a plurality of fins integrally formed on the tubular structure.

6. (Currently Amended) The bolt protection apparatus of Claim 1,
~~wherein the first means and second means are constructed from a material that resists~~
~~corrosion when in contact with the piece of lumber and retards corrosion of the bolt,~~ wherein
the bolt is metal.

7. (Currently Amended) The bolt protection apparatus of Claim 1,
~~wherein the first means and second means are constructed from a material that resists~~
~~corrosion when in contact with the piece of lumber and retards corrosion of the bolt,~~ wherein
the bolt is steel.

8. (Original) The bolt protection apparatus of Claim 1,
wherein the first means is constructed from a plastic material.

9. (Original) The bolt protection apparatus of Claim 1,
wherein the first means is substantially rigid.

10. (Withdrawn) The bolt protection apparatus of Claim 1,
wherein the first means is flexible.

11. (Original) The bolt protection apparatus of Claim 4,
wherein the first means is constructed from a plastic material and is substantially
rigid.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Withdrawn) A method for building a structure, comprising:
attaching a plurality of bolts to a building foundation such that a first end of each bolt protrudes from the foundation;

surrounding a portion of a first bolt comprising one of the plurality of bolts with a protective sleeve; and

disposing a piece of lumber and the first bolt relative to one another such that at least a portion of the first bolt and at least a portion of the protective sleeve pass through an opening in the piece of lumber and wherein the protective sleeve prevents at least a portion of the first bolt from contacting the sidewall of the opening.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 13
wherein the foundation is a pier and beam foundation.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 13
wherein the foundation is a slab foundation.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 13, further comprising:
placing a first washer over the first end of the first bolt after it has passed through the opening.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 16, further comprising:
attaching a nut to the first end of the first bolt.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17,
wherein the first washer prevents the nut from contacting the piece of lumber.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 16, further comprising:
placing a second washer on top of the first washer;
attaching a nut to the first end of the first bolt; and
wherein the first washer prevents the second washer from contacting the piece of lumber.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 13,
wherein the piece of lumber comprises chemicals corrosive to steel.
21. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 16,
wherein the piece of lumber comprises chemicals corrosive to steel.
22. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 19,
wherein the piece of lumber comprises chemicals corrosive to steel.
23. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 13,
wherein the protective sleeve comprises a generally tubular structure which prevents
any portion of the first bolt from contacting the sidewall of the opening.
24. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 23,
wherein the protective sleeve further comprises a washer-like structure substantially
perpendicular to the tubular structure and integrally formed therewith.
25. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 23,
wherein the protective sleeve further comprises a plurality of fins integrally formed on
the tubular structure.
26. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 23,
wherein the tubular structure comprises a plurality of tubular segments.
27. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 24, wherein the protective sleeve is
constructed from a plastic material.
28. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 27, wherein the protective sleeve retards
corrosion of the first bolt by chemicals in the piece of lumber.
29. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 13, wherein the protective sleeve retards
corrosion of the first bolt by chemicals in the piece of lumber.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 23, wherein the protective sleeve retards corrosion of the first bolt by chemicals in the piece of lumber.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 23, further comprising:
placing a first washer over the first end of the first bolt after it has passed through the opening.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 31, further comprising:
attaching a nut to the first end of the first bolt.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 32,
wherein the first washer prevents the nut from contacting the piece of lumber.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 31, further comprising:
placing a second washer on top of the first washer;
attaching a nut to the first end of the first bolt; and
wherein the first washer prevents the second washer from contacting the piece of lumber.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 31, wherein the protective sleeve retards corrosion of the first bolt by chemicals in the piece of lumber.

36. (Withdrawn) A building structure, comprising:
a foundation;
a first bolt attached to the foundation with a first end protruding from the foundation;
a protective sleeve surrounding at least a portion of the first bolt;
a piece of lumber having an opening therein, wherein the piece of lumber is disposed relative to the first bolt such that at least a portion of the first bolt and at least a portion of the protective sleeve pass through an opening in the piece of lumber and wherein the protective sleeve prevents at least a portion of the first bolt from contacting the sidewall of the opening.

37. (Withdrawn) The building structure of Claim 36, further comprising:
a first washer placed over the first end of the first bolt after it has passed through the opening.

38. (Withdrawn) The building structure of Claim 37, further comprising:
a nut attached to the first end of the first bolt.

39. (Withdrawn) The building structure of Claim 38,
wherein the first washer prevents the nut from contacting the piece of lumber.

40. (Withdrawn) The building structure of Claim 37, further comprising:
a second washer placed on top of the first washer;
a nut attached to the first end of the first bolt; and
wherein the first washer prevents the second washer from contacting the piece of lumber.

41. (Withdrawn) The building structure of Claim 36,
wherein the piece of lumber comprises chemicals corrosive to steel.

42. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 37,
wherein the piece of lumber comprises chemicals corrosive to steel.

43. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 40,
wherein the piece of lumber comprises chemicals corrosive to steel.
44. (Withdrawn) The building structure of Claim 36,
wherein the protective sleeve comprises a generally tubular structure which prevents
any portion of the first bolt from contacting the sidewall of the opening.
45. (Withdrawn) The building structure of Claim 44,
wherein the protective sleeve further comprises a washer-like structure substantially
perpendicular to the tubular structure and integrally formed therewith.
46. (Withdrawn) The building structure of Claim 44,
wherein the protective sleeve further comprises a plurality of fins integrally formed on
the tubular structure.
47. (Withdrawn) The building structure of Claim 44,
wherein the tubular structure comprises a plurality of tubular segments.
48. (Withdrawn) The building structure of Claim 45, wherein the protective
sleeve is constructed from a plastic material.
49. (Withdrawn) The building structure of Claim 48, wherein the protective
sleeve retards corrosion of the first bolt by chemicals in the piece of lumber.
50. (Withdrawn) The building structure of Claim 36, wherein the protective
sleeve retards corrosion of the first bolt by chemicals in the piece of lumber.
51. (Withdrawn) The building structure of Claim 44, wherein the protective
sleeve retards corrosion of the first bolt by chemicals in the piece of lumber.

52. (Withdrawn) The building structure of Claim 44, further comprising:
a first washer placed over the first end of the first bolt after it has passed through the opening.

53. (Withdrawn) The building structure of Claim 52, further comprising:
a nut attached to the first end of the first bolt.

54. (Withdrawn) The building structure of Claim 53,
wherein the first washer prevents the nut from contacting the piece of lumber.

55. (Withdrawn) The building structure of Claim 52, further comprising:
a second washer placed on top of the first washer;
a nut attached to the first end of the first bolt; and
wherein the first washer prevents the second washer from contacting the piece of
lumber.

56. (Withdrawn) The building structure of Claim 52, wherein the protective
sleeve retards corrosion of the first bolt by chemicals in the piece of lumber.

57. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
a building foundation;
~~an object;~~
a first bolt having a first end and a second end, the second end inserted into the building foundation, the first bolt formed of a material other than stainless steel;
a non-metal protective sleeve surrounding at least a portion of the first bolt;
a piece of lumber attached to the building foundation ~~object~~, the piece of lumber treated with one or more chemicals, wherein the piece of lumber is attached to the building foundation ~~object~~ using the first bolt wherein the piece of lumber is disposed relative to the first bolt such that at least a portion of the first bolt and at least a portion of the protective sleeve pass through an opening in the piece of lumber and wherein the protective sleeve prevents at least a portion of the first bolt from contacting the sidewall of the opening, wherein the protective sleeve retards corrosion of the first bolt by the one or more chemicals.

58. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 57,
wherein the object comprises a second piece of lumber.

59. (Cancelled)

60. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 57,
wherein the protective sleeve comprises a generally tubular structure which prevents any portion of the first bolt from contacting the sidewall of the opening.

61. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 60,
wherein the protective sleeve further comprises a washer ~~washer-like structure~~ substantially perpendicular to the tubular structure and integrally formed therewith.

62. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 60,
wherein the protective sleeve further comprises a plurality of fins integrally formed on the tubular structure.

63. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 60,
wherein the tubular structure comprises a plurality of tubular segments.
64. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 61, wherein the protective sleeve is
constructed from a plastic material.
65. (Cancelled)
66. (Cancelled)
67. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 60, wherein the protective sleeve retards
corrosion of the first bolt by chemicals in the piece of lumber.
68. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 60, further comprising:
a first washer placed over the first end of the first bolt after it has passed through the
opening.
69. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 68, further comprising:
a nut attached to the first end of the first bolt.
70. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 69,
wherein the first washer prevents the nut from contacting the piece of lumber.
71. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 68, further comprising:
a second washer placed on top of the first washer;
a nut attached to the first end of the first bolt; and
wherein the first washer prevents the second washer from contacting the piece of
lumber.
72. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 68, wherein the protective sleeve retards
corrosion of the first bolt by chemicals in the piece of lumber.